Doordarshan International Channel

4060. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to help and fund Indian Embassies to set up dish antenna to received Doordarshan International channels for NRIs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and steps proposed to earn more foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Diplomatic practice does not permit the Indian Embassies to use dish antenna for commercial purposes. The main objective of DD-International is to project India and Indian views abroad and question of earning foreign exchange is incidental and secondary in nature. For the time being, anyone who wishes to downlink DD-International signal for distribution to public including NIR's in any country is permitted to do so after obtaining a 'No objection certificate' from Doordarshan.

Grant of All India Railway Card Passes to Spouses of Arjun Awardees

4061. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Govenment propose to grant the All India Railway Card passes to spouses of the Arjun Awardees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to extend the facilities for using the said passes in trains like Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express; and

(d) if so, the time by which these facilities are likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Survey for Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli Line

4062. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that survey work on new Ahmednagar-Beed-Parli-Vaijnath rail line has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the above work is likely to be started and completed;

(c) whether the Government had sanctioned one crore rupees for this project during 1995-96;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in laying the above rail line;

(e) the time by which the above line is likely to be laid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, the work could not be started as the required clearances were not available. The target for completion of the work has not yet been fixed.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The work has been cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs only on 21.2.97. Preliminary work for taking up the project is on hand.

Construction of Yatri Niwas at Indore

4063. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Indore; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b) No proposal have been received from the State Government for the construction of Yatri Niwas at Indore.

PCO and Telephones in Rural Areas

4064. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for setting up PCOs and telephones in rural ares in Uttar Pradesh during 1997-98;

(b) the criteria fixed for setting up PCOs and telephones in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the number of persons in the waiting list in rural areas in Ghatampur Parliamentary-constituency; and

(d) the number of PCOs allotted during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as possible.